

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action

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Control: 20986  
Rec'd: JULY 31, 1961  
3:00 PM1071  
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Info

FROM: BONN

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TO: Secretary of State

NO: 216, JULY 31, 5 PM

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PRIORITY

ACTION DEPARTMENT 216, INFORMATION LONDON 44, PARIS 56,  
MOSCOW 31, BERLIN 69.

RE DEPTTEL 172 AND BERLIN'S 87 TO DEPARTMENT.

DEPT'S EXCELLENT ANALYSIS EAST GERMAN SITUATION IS BORNE OUT BY EVENTS THUS FAR, WITH DDR TAKING INCREASING MEASURES TO STEM REFUGEE FLOW, INCLUDING EXTRAORDINARY APPEAL TO POPULACE AND TIGHTENED CONTROLS ON TRAVEL TO EAST BERLIN. I QUESTION, HOWEVER, WHETHER WE ARE WISE TO CONFINED OURSELVES AT THIS TIME MERELY TO ADVERTISING FACTS OF REFUGEE FLOW. EAST ZONE REGIME CAN BE EXPECTED TO PUSH VERY HARD ITS DEVELOPING LINE OF "SLAVE TRADE", WHICH I FEAR MAY BE MOST DAMAGING TO US IN NON-COMMITTED AREAS UNLESS STRENUOUS STEPS ARE TAKEN TO REFUTE THIS PROPAGANDA. TRIAL REPORTED BERLIN TEL 112 TO DEPT PROBABLY FORESHADOWS FURTHER TIGHTENING OF CONTROLS WHICH WILL BE ATTRIBUTED TO NEED TO PROTECT POPULATION FROM HARMFUL WESTERN INFLUENCES.

I WONDER, THEREFORE, IF WE WOULD NOT BE WELL ADVISED, BEFORE ISSUE DEVELOPS FURTHER, TO BRING SITUATION TO ATTENTION OF US WITH CALL FOR IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION OF EAST GERMAN CONDITIONS. IF COUPLED WITH INDICATION OF OUR DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR REUNIFICATION AS ULTIMATE SOLUTION, THERE WOULD, I THINK, BE NO DANGER OF OUR INCREASING UNREST AT THIS STAGE. ONE CONTRARY SUCH MOVE MIGHT WELL ACT TO ALLAY NERVOUSNESS NOW SO EVIDENT, WHICH TO SOME EXTENT AT LEAST IS BASED ON LOSS OF FAITH IN /IMPROVEMENT

SECRET

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-2- 216, JULY 31, 5 PM, FROM: BONN

IMPROVEMENT OF EAST GERMANS' LOT THROUGH EVENTUAL WESTERN POLICY.

ASIDE FROM PROVIDING BEST VEHICLE FOR REFUTATION OF ALLEGATIONS THAT WEST IS ENTICING EAST GERMANS TO DEFECT, IT SEEMS TO ME FURTHER THAT CALL FOR UN CONSIDERATION WOULD FIT IN WITH OUR CURRENT EFFORTS TO CONVINCE MOSCOW OF OUR FIRMNESS RE BERLIN. THERE IS, ADMITTEDLY, OVERTONE IN SUCH MOVE OF WILLINGNESS TO UPSET STATUS QUO, BUT MAJOR MOVE IN THIS DIRECTION HAS ALREADY BEEN INITIATED FROM SOVIET SIDE, AND COUNTER-MOVE BY US COULD ONLY SERVE TO INDICATE OUR DETERMINATION TO DEFEND OUR POSITION WITH FULL RANGE OF ACTIONS. FINALLY, IT WOULD, I THINK, BE TAKEN IN FEDREP AS RENEWED EVIDENCE OF THAT MORAL SUPPORT BY US TO WHICH WEST GERMANS HAVE ALWAYS RESPONDED IN POST-WAR PERIOD.

DOWLING

DMJ/23

Note: Mr Williams (GER) notified 7:35 PM 7/31 CWO M

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